

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8221

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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2813

LIMDIS

FOR ASST SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADORS GOULD AND HINTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEC, US, NL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER
STOEL

1. DURING HIS VISIT HERE AMBASSADOR HINTON AND I WERE ABLE TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR CARRYING FORWARD CONSTRUCTIVE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH DUTCH ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS THAT WE CAN EXPECT WILL BE DEALT WITH DURING DUTCH PRESIDENCY OF EC-9 BEGINNING JULY 1. ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZED THERE WILL BE SOME OCCASION FOR DISCUSSIONS IN THIS AREA DURING NATO MINISTERIAL AND PROBABLY AGAIN IN LATE JUNE IN OECD, WE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE USEFUL ALSO TO ARRANGE AN EARLY VISIT TO WASHINGTON BY THE DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED (THE HAGUE 2723) WE ARE AWARE THAT FONMIN VAN DER STOEL'S SCHEDULE IS SUCH THAT MEETING PRIOR TO DUTCH ASSUMPTION OF PRESIDENCY MAY NOT BE FEASIBLE, NOT TO MENTION QUESTIONS INVOLVING SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE IN NEXT MONTH OR SO. NEVERTHELESS WE BOTH STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT FONMIN VAN DER STOEL BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR A BRIEF WORKING VISIT. FACT OF INVITATION ALONE SHOULD BE HELPFUL, EVEN IF IT TURNS OUT THAT VISIT CANNOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL JUST PRIOR TO CONVENING OF UNGA.

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2. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS THE PRACTICE HAS DEVELOPED OF INVITING THE FOREIGN MINISTER FROM THE MEMBER COUNTRY HOLDING THE SIX-MONTH EC COUNCIL PRESIDENCY TO WASHINGTON FOR MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. IN VIEW OF THE LEAD ROLE PLAYED BY THE PRESIDENCY IN POLITICAL COOPERATION AMONG THE NINE, AS WELL AS IN MORE TRADITIONAL EC BUSINESS, WE BELIEVE THAT THESE VISITS HAVE BEEN AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF STRENGTHENING OUR LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE EC DURING THE ENSUING SIX-MONTH PERIOD. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THESE CHANNELS MAY BECOME EVEN MORE USEFUL TO US DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1976 IN VIEW OF THE UNGA SESSION AND OUR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS, INCLUDING TENTATIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR APPROPRIATE TIMING SO THAT WE CAN BROACH MATTER INFORMALLY TO APPROPRIATE DUTCH OFFICIALS.
GOULD

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